

# Chronicon Pictum

The **Chronicon Pictum** (English: Illuminated Chronicle or *Vienna Illuminated Chronicle*, Hungarian: *Képes Krónika* also referred to as *Chronica Hungarorum*, *Chronicon (Hungariae) Pictum*, *Chronica Picta* or *Chronica de Gestis Hungarorum*) is a medieval illustrated chronicle from the Kingdom of Hungary from the fourteenth century. It represents the international artistic style of the royal courts in the court of Louis I of Hungary.

The illuminated decoration of the manuscript was performed in the Kingdom of Hungary before 1360 and it provides knowledge of Hungarian life, historical traditions, and legends.

Its full name is: *Chronicon pictum, Marci de Kalt, Chronica de gestis Hungarorum*, that is *Illustrated Chronicle, Mark of Kalt's Chronicle About the Deeds of the Hungarians*.

## Depicted history

The 147 pictures of the chronicle are great source of information on medieval Hungarian cultural history, costume, and court life in the 14th century. Many miniatures seen inside this chronicle are painted with gold. The artistic value of the miniatures are quite high, if we compare similar miniatures from Western Europe from the same time. The characters are drawn with detail and with knowledge of anatomy. Even the eyeballs are painted, which can only be checked through microscope.

All miniatures showing Attila the Hun are disrupted or even rubbed out (especially the last, showing Attila's death); this cannot be due to the time as all other miniatures and text are preserved well. The miniatures make use of symbolism, i.e. "primus ingressus" ('first incoming') is with a camel, while the "secundus ingressus" ('second incoming') is with a white horse, probably meaning that entering the Carpathian Basin the first time was not a successful or was a culturally diverted act (as the camel is a "diverted" horse and white horse is the "pure quality"). The text of Latin is without error and is representing a high quality.

For unknown reasons, the chronicle was stored in Vienna, Austria, where it was found in the 19th century; this is why it is also referred as "Vienna Illuminated Chronicle". The manuscript is presently kept in the National Széchényi Library in Budapest (Országos Széchényi Könyvtár, Budapest).



The first page of the *Chronicon Pictum*

## Gallery



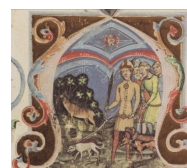
Attila the Hun



Huns besieging Aquileia



Attila meeting  
Pope Leo



The Hunt of the  
White Stag



Seven Chieftains



Hungarian Conquest of the  
Carpathian Basin



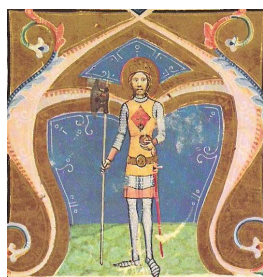
Lehel and his horn



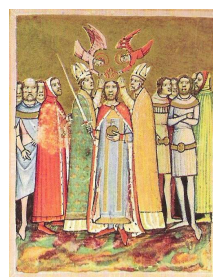
Grand Prince Géza



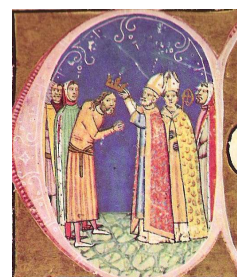
King St. Stephen



King Ladislaus I



King Ladislaus I



King Coloman



Battle of Posada



King Béla IV

## External links

- A digitized version of the Chronicon itself <sup>[1]</sup> at the Wayback Machine (archived March 4, 2012)
- Podhradczky József (1838) [1365]. *Chronicon Budense* <sup>[2]</sup> (in Latin). Buda. – A more readable Latin text, with notes in Latin
- Geréb László (1993). *Képes Krónika* <sup>[3]</sup> (in Hungarian). Magyar Hírlap and Maecenas. ISBN 963 8164 07 7. – Hungarian translation at the Hungarian Electronic Library

## References

- [1] [https://web.archive.org/web/20120304111134/http://konyv-e.hu/pdf/Chronica\\_Picta.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20120304111134/http://konyv-e.hu/pdf/Chronica_Picta.pdf)
- [2] <http://books.google.fr/books?id=s4wAAAAcAAJ&pg=PR1>
- [3] <http://mek.oszk.hu/10600/10642/>
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